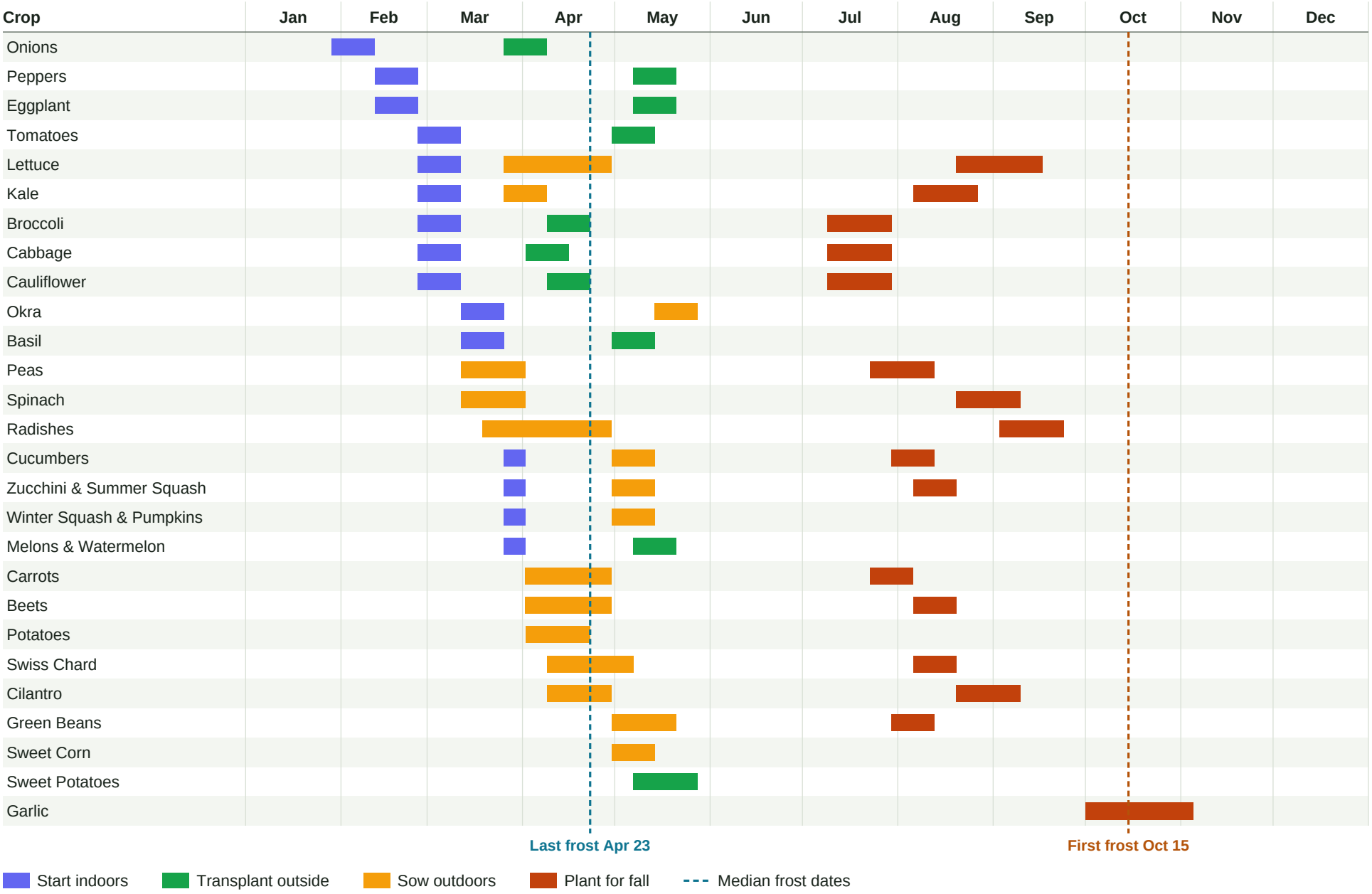
# Des Moines, IA planting calendar

Median last frost Apr 23 (10% chance of frost after May 6) · Median first frost Oct 15 · 175-day growing season · Zone 5b



# Des Moines, IA planting dates

Median last frost Apr 23 (10% chance of frost after May 6) · Median first frost Oct 15 · 175-day growing season · Zone 5b

| Crop | Start indoors | Transplant outside | Sow outdoors | Plant for fall |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Onions | Jan 29 – Feb 12 | Mar 26 – Apr 9 | — | — |
| Peppers | Feb 12 – Feb 26 | May 7 – May 21 | — | — |
| Eggplant | Feb 12 – Feb 26 | May 7 – May 21 | — | — |
| Tomatoes | Feb 26 – Mar 12 | Apr 30 – May 14 | — | — |
| Lettuce | Feb 26 – Mar 12 | Apr 2 – Apr 16 | Mar 26 – Apr 30 | Aug 20 – Sep 17 |
| Kale | Feb 26 – Mar 12 | Mar 26 – Apr 9 | Mar 26 – Apr 9 | Aug 6 – Aug 27 |
| Broccoli | Feb 26 – Mar 12 | Apr 9 – Apr 23 | — | Jul 9 – Jul 30 |
| Cabbage | Feb 26 – Mar 12 | Apr 2 – Apr 16 | — | Jul 9 – Jul 30 |
| Cauliflower | Feb 26 – Mar 12 | Apr 9 – Apr 23 | — | Jul 9 – Jul 30 |
| Okra | Mar 12 – Mar 26 | May 14 – May 28 | May 14 – May 28 | — |
| Basil | Mar 12 – Mar 26 | Apr 30 – May 14 | — | — |
| Peas | — | — | Mar 12 – Apr 2 | Jul 23 – Aug 13 |
| Spinach | — | — | Mar 12 – Apr 2 | Aug 20 – Sep 10 |
| Radishes | — | — | Mar 19 – Apr 30 | Sep 3 – Sep 24 |
| Cucumbers | Mar 26 – Apr 2 | May 7 – May 14 | Apr 30 – May 14 | Jul 30 – Aug 13 |
| Zucchini & Summer Squash | Mar 26 – Apr 2 | — | Apr 30 – May 14 | Aug 6 – Aug 20 |
| Winter Squash & Pumpkins | Mar 26 – Apr 2 | — | Apr 30 – May 14 | — |
| Melons & Watermelon | Mar 26 – Apr 2 | May 7 – May 21 | — | — |
| Carrots | — | — | Apr 2 – Apr 30 | Jul 23 – Aug 6 |
| Beets | — | — | Apr 2 – Apr 30 | Aug 6 – Aug 20 |
| Potatoes | — | — | Apr 2 – Apr 23 | — |
| Swiss Chard | — | — | Apr 9 – May 7 | Aug 6 – Aug 20 |
| Cilantro | — | — | Apr 9 – Apr 30 | Aug 20 – Sep 10 |
| Green Beans | — | — | Apr 30 – May 21 | Jul 30 – Aug 13 |
| Sweet Corn | — | — | Apr 30 – May 14 | — |
| Sweet Potatoes | — | May 7 – May 28 | — | — |
| Garlic | — | — | — | Oct 1 – Nov 5 |

Wait until after May 6 (only a 10% chance of frost) to plant out the most frost-tender crops: tomatoes, peppers, basil, melons.